

Specification

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the informality in the Specification.

Applicants have amended the specification to rejoin the objected to language.

5

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicants respectfully note that the Eakins et al. reference cited by the Examiner is predated by the foreign priority document, and thus request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection be withdrawn from the present application.

10

Conclusion

Inasmuch as each of the rejections have been fully addressed, and all of the Examiner's concerns have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

15

Submitted by,

Mark Bergner (Reg. No. 45,877)

Mark Bergner
Schiff Hardin & Waite
Patent Department
6600 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473
(312) 258-5779
Attorneys for Applicant

20

25

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 6, 2000

30

Mark Bergner
Attorney for Applicants